

Boston.

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REPORT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
SOCIETY OF VISITORS AMONG THE POOR
OF BOSTON

1879_

R E P O R T

OF THE

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY OF VISITORS

AMONG

THE POOR OF BOSTON.

1879.

SOCIAL SERVICE
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BOSTON

R E P O R T

OF THE

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY OF VISITORS

AMONG

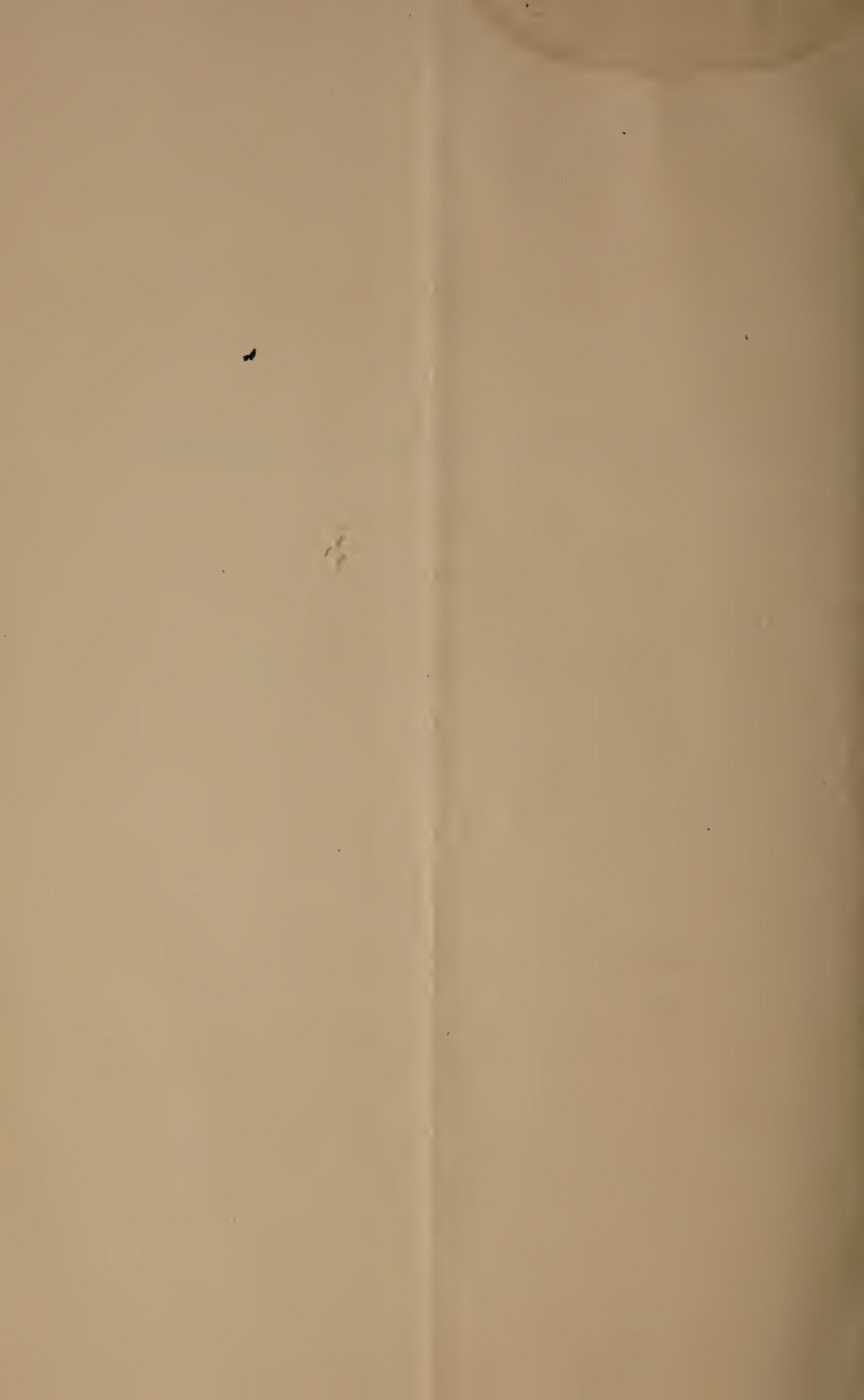
THE POOR OF BOSTON.

April 9, 1879.

BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING COMPANY, 79 MILK STREET.

1879.



BOARD OF MANAGERS.

President.

MRS. JAMES LODGE.

Vice-President.

MRS. JAMES T. FIELDS.

Secretary.

MRS. B. S. CALEF.

Treasurer.

MR. R. S. FAY.

Directors.

MRS. JAMES LODGE.

MRS. J. C. HOOKER.

MRS. JAMES T. FIELDS.

MR. GEORGE A. GODDARD.

MRS. B. S. CALEF.

MR. S. B. SCHLESINGER.

MISS ELLEN MASON.

MR. R. S. FAY.

MR. B. S. CALEF.

Superintendent.

MRS. JANE PITBLADO.

The office of the Society is at Room No. 48 Chardon Street, Charity Bureau. Open daily from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. Saturday, from 10 to 12.

VISITORS.

Miss APTHORP.

Miss IDA BEAL.

Miss ANNIE BIGELOW.

Dr. SAFFORD BLAKE.

Mr. Jos. T. BROWN, JR.

Mrs. B. S. CALEF.

Mr. B. S. CALEF.

Mr. R. M. CUSHING.

Mrs. JOSEPH COOK.

Mrs. FETTE.

Mr. FETTE.

Miss FETTE.

Miss FITZ.

Miss FROST.

Miss JULIA FROTHINGHAM.

Miss TERESA FAY.

Mr. HOLMES HINKLEY.

Mrs. J. B. HOLMES.

Mr. GEO. HOMANS.

Mrs. G. D. HOWE.

Miss KETTELL.

Mr. KETTELL.

Mr. EDWARD MACDONALD.

Miss E. MASON.

Mrs. MOULTON.

Mr. JAMES R. MURPHY.

Miss NOYES.

Mrs. PORTER.

Mrs. PUTNAM.

Mrs. THOMAS RUSSELL.

Miss SHIMMIN.

Mrs. TILESTON.

Miss WILSON.

Mr. ERVING WINSLOW.

Miss WHITWELL.

Miss WARREN.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

I.

THE name of the Society shall be "The Co-operative Society of Visitors among the Poor of Boston."

II.

The purpose for which the corporation is constituted is the amelioration, moral and physical, of the poor, by personal visiting, by teaching them habits of temperance and cleanliness, by giving sewing to poor women from a work-room, and by finding employment for men.

III.

The members shall consist of charitable persons, without reference to any religious or special organization, who shall be willing to join the Society and who shall be accepted by the directors as visitors among the poor, subject to the rules made from time to time by the officers.

IV.

An annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Wednesday of April in each year, at such hour and place as the President shall appoint. Members shall be notified by the Secretary, at least one week before the meeting. Six members shall constitute a quorum.

V.

The officers of the Society shall be a board of nine directors. They shall be elected by the incorporators and shall fill vacancies in their own number. They shall annually elect from among themselves a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall hold office for one year, and until their successors are elected.

VI.

It shall be the duty of the President, or in case of absence, of the Vice-President, to preside at all meetings of the Society, and preserve in strict exercise the rules established by parliamentary usage.

VII.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a correct record of the doings of each meeting of the Society and of the directors, and to issue the notices provided for in this Constitution.

VIII.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect all moneys due to the Society and to disburse the same under the direction of the officers; to keep a correct account of his proceedings, and to present the same at the annual meeting, after it has been examined by two auditors appointed by the directors.

IX.

The directors shall meet in the months of November and April, on a day and hour to be appointed by the President; at least three days' notice by mail shall be given of such meetings to said directors by the Secretary. Four directors shall constitute a quorum.

X.

The President shall, at discretion, or at the request of any ten members of the Society, call a special meeting of the Society, and at the request of any director call a special meeting of the directors. Notice of such special meetings shall be given by the Secretary as in the case of regular meetings of either kind.

XI.

The Constitution may be changed at any regular or special meeting of the directors, provided that the notification of such meeting shall contain a copy of the amendment proposed. The Secretary shall insert such copy in such notification at the direction of a previous meeting of the directors.

XII.

A member may be expelled by a vote of two-thirds of the directors present at any meeting, provided, however, that the intention to take such action be stated in the notification sent previous to such meeting.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

In presenting the Annual Report of our Society, it is needless to recapitulate the general principles and plan to which it has from the outset uniformly adhered, and which are already so familiar to all who have aided and sustained its work. We feel that we may confidently rely upon the continued interest and cordial sympathy of those who have so long been closely associated with it, as well as of the far larger number who have constantly assisted us by their contributions to the support of our work-room.

During the past winter, our work has been continued in a somewhat different form, but in essentially the same spirit and direction as heretofore. With a view to co-operating as fully as possible with the plan of the Associated Charities, whose objects corresponded with and included our own, we have been working in close connection with them. Though our organization, as a separate society, has, of course, remained intact, our visitors have placed themselves under the direction of the Executive Committee of Ward 7. This section of the city embraces the locality in which the larger part of our work had previously been carried on, and their labors have been continued there none the less steadily and effectively because in some respects less distinctively than in former years.

We furnished, in our earnest and experienced visitors, the nucleus of that efficient corps of workers who have enabled

Ward 7 to carry into execution the plans of the general organization with greater promptitude and completeness, than could be done in any other portion of the city, with the exception of East Boston, where an offshoot of our original society was already established, by which a similar course has been adopted. In having been able to contribute in this way towards the establishment of a system of co-operation which will embrace the entire city, we can but feel the deep satisfaction with which one sees a small beginning lost in a larger growth, and attaining a wider scope, and a fuller development.

Four years ago, when our little Society began its work, there was a prevailing idea that volunteer visiting among the poor was not only impracticable, but of very questionable efficacy. It probably arose from a want of discrimination between the systematic administration of material relief, which is necessarily temporary and superficial, and that larger charity which includes influence and moral elevation among its objects.

The necessity for some change in those stereotyped methods of the distribution of alms, by gifts of food and clothing, which tend rather to increase than to eradicate the evil of pauperism, has gradually been perceived, and the desirability of supplementing them by other agencies is now very generally admitted.

The plan of Associated Charities, develops a system that will tend to reform and elevate rather than to debase and pauperize those who apply to us for aid. That keynote of personal visitation, as the only means of clearly understanding and effectually helping the poor, which has always been our ruling principle, rings out clear and strong in the fuller chord now struck by the wider scheme which we hope soon to see in active operation throughout the entire city.

In addition to this, it provides for a system of general registration, and of district conferences, which will insure complete co-operation between all charities, both public and

private. Upon these three fundamental ideas rests that wisely and carefully constructed constitution of the association, which aims at making all our charitable work less wasteful and demoralizing, and more thorough and efficient. Many of the admirable results which it is confidently anticipated it will achieve when generally adopted, were implied and prophesied in that vital principle of co-operation, which was our starting point and guide in the work that we have tried to do in the small section of the city under our special charge.

Our work-rooms have been carried on as in former years, supported by the liberal subscriptions of many kind friends who, without engaging personally in our work, have furnished the means by which we are enabled to make it more efficacious and satisfactory. They have always been an invaluable and indispensable feature in carrying out our plans for developing a capacity for self-help and self-respect among the poor, and for helping them to help themselves. They afford not only the temporary resource so often required, and the continuous aid sometimes needed for deserving cases, but they serve also as a test of character and willingness to work, and as a stimulus of faculties disused and benumbed by habits of beggary and dependence.

It is sufficient to say that the work-room has remained in the charge of Mrs. Pitblado, our invaluable superintendent, to imply all the praise that could possibly be awarded to its efficiency and excellent management. There has been a marked improvement in the coarse sewing, resulting from her firmness and patience in instructing the many careless and ignorant workers among those whom we employ. The department for fine work and embroidery, which has proved so satisfactory, is still maintained, supplying employment, so far as the private orders received will permit, to a class of painstaking and industrious workers, more deserving in many respects, than any other which we are able to reach.

Besides the garments sold as usual to poor women, and to

ladies for charitable distribution, much of the clothing made has been given to hospitals and benevolent institutions. Among them we may mention the Provident Association, the Temporary Home for Working Women, the Home for the Destitute (Pine Place), St. Luke's Home for Convalescents, the Consumptives' Home, the New England Home for Intemperate Women, the Dedham Home for Discharged Female Prisoners, the House of the Good Samaritan, and the Children's Hospital.

A donation of thirty-two dozen garments was also sent during the summer to the yellow-fever sufferers, through the sisterhood of St. Margaret.

About seventy-five women have been employed weekly, although, as the length of time for which the work is given varies with each case, and there are frequent changes in the names upon our list, the total number of those who have received it would be considerably larger.

Our superintendent reports from April 4, 1878, to April 3, 1879: Cash paid for coarse work, \$1,224.51; cash paid for materials, \$688.15; cash paid for fine sewing done to order, \$1,815.13.

These figures furnish only a bare outline and meagre summary of the really important work that has been done. Each case represents some needy home that has been visited — some family whose troubles and privations have been carefully considered and relieved, not merely by the sewing given, but by the cheering words and wise advice of a friend. In many instances, successful efforts have been made to find permanent employment, and to procure the special form of aid required to effectually meet their necessities. It would be impossible to render any detailed account of the help and comfort that have been given, the energy communicated, the independence fostered, the restraining and reforming influence exercised, but their effects are seen in many instances by a revival of hope and courage, an improvement in habits, and a checking of downward tendencies.

These few statistics are but the index to the constant oversight, personal sympathy, and thorough understanding which have been shown by our faithful visitors in their weekly conferences and reports. Their constant endeavor has been not merely to alleviate distress and destitution, but to investigate and correct some of the *causes* of pauperism, such as improvidence, intemperance, and idleness. Our task would be an easy one if we had to contend with want alone, and not with the vice and ignorance that often lie at its root.

As one of the noble workers in the cause of humanity has well said, "All plans for improvement are superficial that do not touch habits of life and inner forces of character."

Such work as that in which we are engaged must always be its own best reward. It needs no better warrant than that which is given by its high purpose and manifest tendencies; no stronger motive than the constraining impulse of duty and devotion. Its aggregate result is to be seen in individual cases rather than in any formal statement of society work. If it could be clearly shown to those who have contributed to it, whether by personal effort or by gifts of money, by cordial approval and eloquent advocacy of its high ideals, or by ready sympathy and valuable co-operation in its practical details—it would be the best thanks we could render for the help and encouragement we have received, and the strongest plea we could urge in asking for their continuance.

Intelligence and *sympathy* are generally admitted to be the two great requisites in any effectual method of dealing with the complicated difficulties that beset the question of charitable relief. The evils of an impulsive, indiscriminate, and superficial benevolence are only too obvious, while the value of those ministries of personal influence which are the very essence of true philanthropy cannot be too highly estimated.

Remembering that it is only when we give thought and sympathy as well as money that our charity becomes a vital

and regenerative influence, and a reciprocal blessing, may we always abide by the golden rule in our dealings with the poor, and so make our work a charity in spirit as well as in name, and a true service of humanity.

ANNIE M. CALEF,

Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

R. S. FAX, *Treasurer*, in Account with Co-OPERATIVE SOCIETY OF VISITORS AMONG THE
POOR OF BOSTON.

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
Balance received from E. J. Lowell, former treasurer, April 10, 1878, . . .	Current expenses, . . .
Subscriptions, . . .	Printing and advertising, . . .
Proceeds of Miss Phelps' reading, . . .	Balance April 9, 1879, . . .
Garments sold by Superintendent, . . .	

SUBSCRIBERS.

Dr. J. H. Dix,	\$15 00	Mrs. G. F. Putnam,	\$2 00
Miss M. A. Wales,	20 00	Mrs. C. Tappan,	5 00
Miss Pratt,	50 00	Miss Tappan,	5 00
Mr. Robert Codman,	10 00	Mrs. F. G. Dexter,	5 00
T. Jefferson Coolidge,	25 00	Edward Burgess,	2 00
Mrs. S. Eliot,	10 00	Mrs. Wm. P. Macfarlane,	2 00
Mrs. G. H. Shaw,	10 00	Mrs. D. H. Hayden,	5 00
Mrs. C. E. Ware,	10 00	Mrs. B. S. Rotch,	10 00
Mr. R. S. Fay,	50 00	Mrs. Abbott Lawrence,	5 00
Mrs. Osgood,	5 00	Mrs. F. H. Bradlee,	5 00
Mrs. M. L. Little,	2 00	Mrs. F. B. Silsbee,	10 00
E. A.,	5 00	Mrs. Manning,	5 00
Mrs. G. Ticknor,	5 00	Mrs. James Bowen,	5 00
Martin Brimmer,	10 00	Miss M. E. Bowen,	1 00
Miss Ida Mason,	25 00	Miss Clark,	3 00
Mrs. Wm. Appleton,	10 00	Mrs. R. Baker, Jr.,	10 00
Mr. R. M. Cushing,	10 00	Miss M. R. Baker,	10 00
Mrs. Henry Grew,	5 00	Mrs. Snelling,	2 00
Mrs. Dexter,	5 00	Cash,	2 00
Mr. George Higginson,	50 00	Mrs. Patrick Grant,	5 00
Kidder & Peabody,	50 00	Mr. T. G. Appleton,	5 00
E. B. Howes,	10 00	Mrs. Andrews,	2 00
Mrs. Alanson Tucker,	5 00	Mrs. Gilbert R. Payson,	5 00
Mrs. Chadwick,	5 00	Mrs. J. M. Glidden,	2 00
Mrs. Charles Gordon,	5 00	Mrs. J. Bradlee,	3 00
Miss S. E. Read,	5 00	Cash,	2 00
Mrs. S. Brooks,	15 00	S. E. Storer,	2 00
A. S. R.,	2 00	Cash,	2 00
Mrs. W. J. Niles,	5 00	Mrs. C. H. Minot,	5 00
Mrs. B. T. Reed,	5 00	Mrs. Richard Warren,	5 00
Mrs. J. L. Stackpole,	2 00	Miss Whitmore,	5 00
Mrs. L. S. Dabney,	5 00	Mrs. H. B. Rogers,	5 00
Mrs. T. D. Boardman,	5 00	Mr. B. S. Calef,	10 00
Mrs. E. Gray,	2 00	Mrs. George Gardner,	10 00
H. C. Rogers,	5 00	Mrs. S. B. Cabot,	10 00

Mrs. F. C. Paine,	\$5 00
Mrs. Preston,	2 00
C. G. L.,	3 00
Mrs. Chase,	5 00
Mrs. N. H. Emmons,	5 00
Arthur B. Emmons,	5 00
J. Wells,	5 00
Mr. George D. Howe,	100 00
Mrs. George P. Upham,	10 00
Francis Bartlett,	10 00
J. G. Cushing,	5 00
Mr. P. C. Brooks,	50 00
Mrs. James Lawrence,	5 00
Miss Mason,	5 00
Miss A. Cochrane,	5 00
Miss M. W. Lodge,	5 00
Mrs. E. Frothingham,	2 00
Mrs. J. F. Anderson,	5 00
Mrs. A. B. Hall,	3 00
Miss Collamore,	2 00
Mrs. F. Gibbs,	2 00
Mrs. E. B. Everett,	5 00
P. L. Everett,	2 00
Mrs. A. D. Phillips,	5 00
Mrs. C. A. Johnson,	5 00
Mrs. M. B. Sigourney,	5 00
C. R. Codman,	5 00
Misses Whitney,	2 00
Mrs. E. C. Johnson,	5 00
Mrs. T. F. Cushing,	5 00
Mrs. W. Burgess,	2 00
Mrs. W. Dabney,	1 00
Mrs. Ropes Ellis,	2 00
Mrs. Winthrop,	10 00
Mrs. C. H. Joy,	5 00
Mrs. H. G. Curtis,	3 00
Mrs. J. Pickering Putnam,	5 00
S. Johnson,	5 00
Mrs. David Sears,	5 00
Mrs. Whitney,	2 00
Mrs. Augustus Flagg,	5 00
Miss Blanchard,	10 00
A Friend,	5 00
Miss Hinekley,	5 00
F. O. Richardson,	2 00
Miss Cobb,	5 00
Miss Wright,	5 00

Mrs. C. Whitney,	\$5 00
Mrs. Fay,	10 00
Mrs. Wm. P. Fay,	5 00
Mrs. J. T. Fields,	10 00
Miss Devens,	2 00
Mrs. W. S. Bullard,	5 00
Mrs. O. Goodwin,	10 00
Mrs. S. D. Warren,	5 00
Mrs. G. N. Black,	5 00
C. T. Paine,	5 00
Cash,	2 00
Mrs. G. S. Curtis,	4 00
Cash,	2 00
Cash,	2 00
Mrs. R. Codman,	5 00
Mrs. R. H. Dana, 3d,	2 00
Mrs. Arklay,	1 00
Mrs. Frank Morison,	5 00
Mrs. S. P. Blake, Jr.,	1 00
Mrs. S. K. Lothrop,	1 00
Mrs. F. Cunningham,	1 00
Mrs. E. E. Pratt,	2 00
Mrs. F. R. Dexter,	2 00
Mrs. W. S. Eaton,	5 00
Mrs. J. C. Wild,	5 00
Mrs. N. Walker,	2 00
Mrs. Peabody,	1 00
Cash,	1 00
Mrs. Greenough,	2 00
Mrs. Russell,	2 00
Mrs. H. Tuek,	1 00
Mrs. N. A. Barrett,	1 00
Mrs. C. B. Porter,	5 00
Mrs. P. C. Brooks, Jr.,	5 00
Miss Morrill,	5 00
Mrs. W. O. Grover,	5 00
Mrs. Mudge,	5 00
Miss E. L. Clarke,	5 00
Mrs. John Jeffries,	5 00
Mrs. Chandler,	2 00
Mrs. C. A. Whittier,	2 00
Mrs. F. Skinner,	5 00
Mrs. C. A. Curtis,	5 00
Mrs. O. W. Holmes,	5 00
H. F. Cragin,	5 00
Mrs. Gardner,	5 00
Mrs. Pickman,	5 00

J. C. Ropes,	\$5 00	Mrs. L. A. Shattuck,	\$2 00
Geo. B. Emerson,	5 00	Miss Shimmin,	5 00
Mrs. Gardner Brewer,	5 00	Mrs. Haven,	5 00
Mrs. S. W. Farwell,	5 00	Mrs. J. F. Curtis,	2 00
Mrs. J. A. Blanchard,	5 00	Miss Daland,	2 00
Mrs. F. Stone,	5 00	Mrs. J. L. White,	1 00
Miss Dore,	5 00	Mrs. N. Thayer,	50 00
Mrs. W. P. Walley,	5 00	Mr. C. H. Bond,	5 00
Mrs. L. Clapp,	2 00	S. B. Schlesinger,	35 00
Mrs. A. P. Rockwell,	2 00	William Amory,	10 00
Mrs. S. L. Hinckley,	5 00	Mrs. William Amory,	10 00
Mrs. Hollis Hunnewell,	10 00	Mrs. R. Rotch,	2 00
Miss C. Crowninshield,	10 00	J. H. Bush,	1 00
Mrs. F. R. Sears.	5 00	Mrs. John Gardner,	1 00
Mrs. W. S. Appleton,	5 00	Mrs. Peete,	3 00
Mrs. Theodore Lyman,	10 00	Mr. George Homans,	10 00
Dr. S. W. Langmaid,	2 00	Mr. J. S. Fay,	10 00
Dr. H. I. Bowditch,	2 00	Miss S. Fay,	5 00
F. Parkman,	5 00	Miss A. N. Towne,	20 00
Miss Barstow,	2 00	Mrs. A. T. Lyman,	5 00
Dr. T. M. Rotch,	2 00	Mrs S. Cabot,	15 00
Mrs. F. R. Nourse,	1 00	Mrs. Peter Harvey,	5 00
Mrs. S. Hooper,	10 00	Mrs. Joseph Cook,	10 00
Miss A. S. Hooper,	10 00	Mrs. W. B. Swett,	16 00
Mrs. Alpheus Hardy,	5 00	Mrs. J. B. Silsbee,	10 00
Dr. F. P. Sprague,	5 00	Friend,	2 00
Mr. James Davis,	5 00		

DONATIONS OF MONEY

FOR EXTRA WORK TO BE GIVEN IN SPECIAL CASES.

Mrs. C. P. Curtis,	\$20 00		Mrs. N. Francis,	\$15 00
Mrs. George Howe,	14 00		Mr. C. Kettell,	7 00
Mrs. Fred. Stone,	16 00		Mrs. James Lodge,	13 40
Miss Bartlett,	8 72		Mrs. Hunnewell,	5 00
Miss Whitmore,	5 00		Mrs. Lawrence,	5 00
Miss E. Mason,	50 00		Mrs. Hooker,	5 00
Miss Loring,	5 00		Mrs. C. Means,	5 00

DONATIONS.

1 piece of cotton cloth from Mrs. C. Merriam.

1 piece of Continental Mills cotton, 1 piece of dress gingham, and 1 piece of drilling from Mr. Eben Wright.

2½ dozen knit stockings from Mrs. Barstow.

Clothing from Mrs. Mason.

Clothing from Mrs. J. T. Fields.

4 quilts, 2 blankets, and clothing from Mrs. Rodman.

Cloth to be made up for Provident Association from Mrs. Fred. Stone.

Dolls, toys, etc., at Christmas, from Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Schlesinger, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. F. W. Palfrey, Mrs. G. D. Howe, Mrs. Moulton, Miss Whitwell, Miss Warren, Mrs. R. S. Fay, Mrs. W. P. Fay, Mr. Fette, Mr. Fay, Dr. Coolidge, and others.

\$25.00 to be used at Thanksgiving from Mr. R. S. Fay.

\$25.00 to be expended in clothing for destitute families from Mrs. E. T. Hooker.

